

*Appendix to the notice of Forged Bactrian coins in No. 100.*

Since writing the above notice, I have found in Capt. E. Conolly's Journal of Bactrian Numismatics (about to be published) the following description of a *gold* coin of Amyntas.

"Gold coin of square form, in the collection of Lady Sale, purchased at Peshawur, in all respects similar to the copper coin of the same king, except that the figures are reversed."

The square form of this piece—a form hitherto unknown in the gold coinage of Bactria, its perfect identity in shape, in size, and in type (only reversed) with the copper coin of this kind already known, added to its having the same sloping cut in the corner which existed in Col. Stacy's copper specimen; and also in the forged silver piece of General Allard; all prove, most satisfactorily to my mind, that this square gold coin of Amyntas is likewise a forgery.

The existence of the sloping cut would alone be to me a sufficient proof of spuriousness of this new piece; the ignorant forger having been unable to complete the legend of the coin on either side. The circumstance of its having been purchased at Peshawur, where General Allard resided so long, and from whence he dispatched to France the drawing of the forged silver coin already mentioned, seems to prove that this gold piece was the production of the same hand that manufactured the spurious silver coin, purchased by General Allard, the type having been reversed with the intention of selling the new piece to General Allard, and of preventing any suspicion of its genuineness arising in the mind of the General, who had purchased the silver piece of the same type, from the same person.

The fact of the type having been reversed, shows an advance in the art of forgery, which should tend to make our countrymen still more cautious in the purchase of Bactrian coins; and more particularly of pieces in the other metals, which reproduce types already known in copper.

In the same paper Captain E. Conolly mentions a tetradrachm of Euthydemus belonging to himself, as being "*evidently cast.*"

There can be no doubt therefore that this "*evidently cast*" tetradrachm of Euthydemus is a spurious piece, forged, with many others, to satisfy the demands of our countrymen in Afghanistan, whose

commendable zeal leads them to give higher prices for these coins than prudence warrants; and I fear that many will find their collections diminish in value as their numismatic knowledge increases, and enables them to detect the spurious coins they have purchased.

The goldsmiths in northern Afghanistan are, I believe, chiefly, if not all, Hindoos, who have been accustomed from their youth to the casting of gold and silver into an infinity of small forms, and to the making casts of old coins, with figures of their Deities, to be worn as charms round the neck.

I have myself seen a dozen brass casts from two different gold coins of Govinda Chundra Deva of Kanouj; one cast was remarkable in having no inscription side, two moulds of the obverse having been placed together to form a piece with the seated figure Durga on each side. These casts were made openly when deception was no object, but when 100 rupees are asked for a tetradrachm of Antimachus, and the same sum for a tetradrachm of Euthydemus, we may be certain that the same man, who would make a few casts from an ancient coin for the sake of the small profit to be obtained from one or two native customers, will now multiply casts of the genuine coins that may fall into their hands for the sake of the high prices that are given for all coins of Bactrian appearance by many of our countrymen, whose numismatic experience is not yet sufficient to distinguish a true coin from a forged one.

The forgery of coins is no novelty in India, for the high prices given for the Zodiac coins of Jehariger, soon excited the cupidity of forgers, who produced the whole of the twelve signs both in gold and in silver—no complete silver set of genuine Zodiac coins has, so far as I have been able to learn, yet been obtained.

In 1837 I saw Mr. Laing's cabinet containing nine silver Zodiacal coins, *all* of which were forgeries, stamped by a die imitated from genuine gold coins, which differ both in type and in inscription from the silver coins;—and which, joined to their hardness and crudeness of outline, are the best tests for distinguishing the forged coins from the true ones.

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